

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraphs [0003] and [0005] below for those now appearing on page 1 of the application.

[0003] German Patent 101 48 781 , corresponding to US Pat. 6,717,724 discloses a microscope carrier with which the microscope can be brought into an ergonomic position for the user. A base plate with adjustable tilt simultaneously also serves as an armrest. In the center of the base plate, a support plate that adjusts the microscope in terms of height and tilt is provided for the microscope and also connected to it. Because the base plate and carrier plate are connected, a plurality of adjustment steps are needed in order to establish the ergonomically most favorable position. In addition, the base plate occupies a large installation space, which is detrimental to closely-packed utilization of laboratory benches.

[0005] U.S. Pat. No. ~~5,105,705~~ 5,195,705 describes a microscope stand that is adjustable in terms of height. Armrests can be added to the stand in order to achieve an ergonomic working position. The armrests possess only one fixed height, so that an optimally ergonomic working position is in fact achieved only for one set height of the microscope.